



Blackhawk Rebasing

9 October 2009

Blackhawk Soldiers and families,

In November we will all be re-united after another successful combat deployment in support of our Nation. This will be a very emotionally charged time as well as a period of individual Soldier and family transition with PCS, ETS, and retirements.

The CSM and I are focusing every resource both within the Blackhawk Brigade and in Germany to limit uncertainty during our reintegration phase in the holiday season and to set every family and Soldier up for success in the New Year.

The big question that still requires a decision is the future location of the entire Blackhawk Brigade. This unfortunately is a very complex decision that involves high level policies in both EUCOM (Germany for us) and the United States. This long term basing question for the Brigade also impacts a near term decision of consolidation of all battalions in Grafenwoehr or remain split based with battalions operating from both Schweinfurt and Grafenwoehr.

The movement of the battalions out of Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr may be of little utility if the Brigade is directed to return to the United States in 2013. These decisions are outside of our control so my intent is to manage turbulence within the Brigade and to provide direction and guidance on what we can control.

In the near term we will delay the movement of 1st Battalion 2nd Infantry and the 172nd Support Battalion from Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr. Although we have full capacity for all Soldiers and family members at Grafenwoehr, the uncertainty of higher level decisions makes it prudent to hold on this movement.

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Sometime in the New Year the long term decision will be announced for the 172nd Blackhawk Brigade. If we are directed to remain in Germany, then we will activate the plan to relocate the battalions to Grafenwoehr executing a deliberate movement beginning no earlier than June of 2010.

Postponing the decision allows family members to keep children in school through the summer break of 2010. Leaders will focus on reintegration of their formations and management of individual Soldiers and their families for PCS, ETS, and retirements. This decision creates stability for incoming Soldiers and families by providing them proper sponsorship, integration, and reception into the organization.

Our Blackhawk family adapted and excelled being split between two communities before and during this deployment. We worked through some complex issues because of great leaders in the formation and the tremendous support of both garrisons. I am proud of how we all worked together to set families and Soldiers up for a highly successful combat deployment.

We will remain committed to each other and focus on the quality of life for our Soldiers and families as we meet the needs of our Nation. Communication is the key to success and I encourage every Soldier and family member to address any concerns to the chain of command so we can continue to “thrive in uncertainty” as a world class organization.

BLACKHAWKS!

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